NUMB. DII.

The SPECTATOR.

Melius, Pejus, profit, obſit, nil vident niſi quod lubent. Ter.

Monday, October 6. 1712.

WHEN Men read, they taſte the Matter with which they are entertained according as their own reſpective Studies and Inclinations have prepared them, and make their Reflections accordingly. Some peruſing a *Roman* Writer, would find in them, whatever the Subject of the Diſcourſes were, Parts which implied the Grandeur of that People in their Warfare or their Politicks. As for my Part, who am a meer Spectator, I drew this Morning Concluſions of their Eminence in what I think great, to wit, in having worthy Sentiments, from the reading a Comedy of *Terence*. The Play was the *Self-Tormentor*. It is from the Beginning to the End a perfect Picture of humane Life, but I did not obſerve in the Whole one Paſſage that could raiſe a Laugh. How well diſpoſed muſt that People be, who could be entertained with Satisfaction by ſo ſober and polite Mirth! In the firſt Scene of the Comedy, when one of the old Men accuſes the other of Impertinence for interpoſing in his Affairs, he anſwers, *I am a Man, and cannot help feeling any Sorrow that can arrive at Man.* It is ſaid this Sentence was received with an univerſal Applauſe. There cannot be a greater Argument of the general good Underſtanding of a People, than a ſudden Conſent to give their Approbation of a Sentiment which has no Emotion in it. If it were ſpoken with never ſo great Skill in the Actor, the Manner of uttering that Sentence could have nothing in it which could ſtrike any but People of the greateſt Humanity, nay People elegant and ſkilful in Obſervations upon it. It is poſſible he might have laid his Hand on his Breaſt, and with a winning Inſinuation in his Countenance, expreſſed to his Neighbour that he was a Man who made his Caſe his own; yet I'll engage a Player in *Covent-Garden* might hit ſuch an Attitude a thouſand times before he would have been regarded. I have heard that the Miniſter of State in the Reign of Queen *Elizabeth* had all Manner of Books and Ballads brought to him, of what Kind ſoever, and took great Notice how much they took with the People; upon which he would, and certainly might, very well judge of their preſent Diſpoſitions, and the moſt proper Way of applying them according to his own Purpoſes. What paſſes on the Stage, and the Reception it meets from the Audience, is a very uſeful Inſtruction of this Kind. According to what you may obſerve there on our Stage, you ſee them often moved ſo directly againſt all common Senſe and Humanity, that you would be apt to pronounce us a Nation of Savages. It cannot be called a Miſtake of what is pleaſant, but the very Contrary to it is what moſt aſſuredly takes with them. The other Night an old Woman carried off with a Pain in her Side, with all the Diſtortions and Anguiſh of Countenance which is natural to one in that Condition, was laughed and clapped off the Stage. *Terence*'s Comedy, which I am ſpeaking of, is indeed written as if he hoped to pleaſe none but ſuch as had as good a Taſte as himſelf. I could not but reflect upon the natural Deſcription of the innocent young Woman made by the Servant to his Maſter. *When I came to the Houſe*, ſaid he, *an old Woman opened the Door, and I followed her in, becauſe I could by entering upon them unawares better obſerve what was your Miſtreſs's ordinary Manner of ſpending her Time, the only Way of judging any ones Inclinations and Genius. I found her at her Needle in a ſort of ſecond Mourning, which ſhe wore for an Aunt ſhe had lately loſt. She had nothing on but what ſhewed ſhe dreſſed only for her ſelf. Her Hair hung negligently about her Shoulders. She had none of the Arts with which others uſe to ſet themſelves off, but had that Negligence of Perſon which is remarkable in thoſe who are careful of their Minds ---- Then ſhe had a Maid who was at Work near her, that was a Slattern, becauſe her Miſtreſs was careleſs; which I take to be another Argument of your Security in her; for the* Go-betweens *of Women of Intreague are rewarded too well to be dirty. When you were named, and I told her you deſired to ſee her, ſhe threw down her Work for Joy, covered her Face, and decently hid her Tears----* He muſt be a very good Actor, and draw Attention rather from his own Character than the Words of the Author, that could gain it among us for this Speech, though ſo full of Nature and good Senſe.

The intolerable Folly and Confidence of Players putting in Words of their own, does in a great meaſure feed the abſurd Taſte of the Audience. But, however that is, it is ordinary for a Cluſter of Coxcombs to take up the Houſe to themſelves, and equally inſult both the Actors and the Company. Theſe Savages, who want all manner of Regard and Deference to the reſt of Mankind, come only to ſhew themſelves to us, without any other Purpoſe than to let us know they deſpiſe us.

The Groſs of an Audience is compos'd of two Sorts of People, thoſe who know no Pleaſure but of the Body, and thoſe who improve or command

corpo-

corporeal Pleasures by the Addition of fine Sentiments of the Minds. At present the intelligent Part of the Company are wholly subdued by the Insurrections of those who know no Satisfactions but what they have in common with all other Animals.

This is the Reason that when a Scene tending to Procreation is acted, you see the whole Pit in such a Chuckle, and old Letchers, with Mouths open, stare at the loose Gesticulations on the Stage with shameful Earnestness, when the justest Pictures of Humane Life in its calm Dignity, and the propereſt Sentiments for the Conduct of it, pass by like meer Narration, as conducing only to somewhat much better which is to come after. I have seen the whole House at some Times in so proper a Disposition, that indeed I have trembled for the Boxes, and feared the Entertainment would end in the Representation of the Rape of the *Sabines*.

I would not be understood in this Talk to argue, that nothing is tolerable on the Stage but what has an immediate Tendency to the Promotion of Virtue. On the contrary, I can allow, provided there is nothing against the Interests of Virtue, and is not offensive to good Manners, that Things of an indifferent Nature may be represented. For this Reason I have no Exception to the well-drawn Rusticities in the *Country Wake*; and there is something so miraculously pleasant in *Dogget*'s acting the awkard Triumph and comick Sorrow of *Hob* in different Circumstances, that I shall not be able to stay away whenever it is acted. All that vexes me is, that the Gallantry of taking the Cudgels for *Glouceſterſhire*, with the Pride of Heart in tucking himself up, and taking Aim at his Adversary, as well as the other's Protestation in the Humanity of low Romance, That he could not promise the Squire to break *Hob*'s Head, but he would, if he could, do it in Love; then flourish and begin: I say, what vexes me is, that such excellent Touches as these, as well as the Squire's being out of all Patience at *Hob*'s Success, and venturing himself into the Crowd, are Circumstances hardly taken Notice of, and the Height of the Jest is only in the very Point that Heads are broken. I am confident, were there a Scene written, wherein *Penkethman* should break his Leg by wrestling with *Bullock*, and *Dicky* come in to set it, without one Word said but what should be according to the exact Rules of Surgery in making this Extention, and binding up the Leg, the whole House should be in a Roar of Applause at the dissembled Anguish of the Patient, the Help given by him who threw him down, and the handy Address and arch Looks of the Surgeon. To enumerate the Entrance of Ghosts, the Embattling of Armies, the Noise of Heroes in Love, with a thousand other Enormities, would be to transgress the Bounds of this Paper, for which Reasons it is possible they may have hereafter distinct Discourses; not forgetting any of the Audience who shall set up for Actors, and interrupt the Play on the Stage; and Players who shall prefer the Applause of Fools to that of the reasonable Part of the Company.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Is continued to be Sold, neat French Brandy, full proof, and of true flavour, for 94 l. by the Tun, and at 8 s. a Gallon for any Quantity less than half a Hogshead: At the Black Lyon over-against Mercer's-Chappel in Cheapside, where constant Attendance will be given.

By Her Majesty's Company of Comedians.

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane, this present Monday, being the 6th of October, will be presented a Comedy call'd, Love makes a Man, or, The Fop's Fortune. The Part of Don Lewis by Mr. Pinkethman, Carlos by Mr. Wilks, Elodio by Mr. Cibber, Don Antonio by Mr. Bullock, Sancho by Mr. Norris, Donna Louisa by Mrs. Rogers, Angelina by Mrs. Bradshaw. And to Morrow being Tuesday (at the Desire of several Ladies of Quality) will be presented a Comedy call'd, Oroonoko. By Her Majesty's Command no Persons are to be admitted behind the Scenes

Blanks and Prizes to be seen Gratis every Hour, at Elford's Coffee House in George-yard, Lombard-street; Where is to be sold Neat Barcelona at 1 s. per Ounce, fine Bratile at 3 s. per Ounce, very good at 2 s. 6 d per Ounce, Portugal at 1 s. 6 d. per Ounce, Ton Kurr Havanah Sevil plain Spanish at 4 s. per Pound, and plain Spanish as good as any at 4 s. per Pound: Note, Also is sold the Flour of Mustard-Seed, it keeping good during an East-India Voyage, and at the Return thereof as at the first Setting-out, I having sold great Quantities that has been disposed of beyond Seas.

Sir William Read, principal Oculist, having been lately sent for to attend several Patients in Norfolk and Suffolk, is, at their Request, for the Publick Good, obliged to publish the Success he met with in the following Cures perform'd by him there, viz. the Lady Yollop, aged 70, Couch'd of a Cataract, and restor'd to Sight; Mr. Carter, an Attorney, aged 75, restor'd to perfect Sight; Capt. Medhurst in Suffolk, aged 60, recovered to his Sight; Mr. Burlingham near Norwich, at 64, brought to perfect Sight; Mrs. Catherine and Mrs. Alice Nuson were both brought to Sight in an Instant, one being 17, and the other 23 Years old, tho' born blind with Cataracts; Col. Crofts at Badly-Hall, Suffolk, Couch'd and restor'd to good Sight of both Eyes at 70 Years old. N. B. Sir William Read being now in Town, is to be advised with at his House in Durham-yard in the Strand, London.

In a few Days will be Publish'd,

A Funeral Oration upon the Death of Monsr. Limborch, late Professor of Divinity among the Remonstrants at Amsterdam, who died April 30. 1712. Pronounc'd May 6. 1712. the Day of his Interment, by Mr. Le Clerc. Translated from the Latin. To be Sold by A. Baldwin in Warwick lane.

An Explication of the Gospel Theism, and the Divinity of the Christian Religion, containing the true Account of the System of the Universe, and of the Christian Trinity; proposed to the Consideration of all Learned and Holy Men, by Richard Brockelsby, a Christian Trinitarian, in large Folio. This very Learned and Curious Book is now, by the Permission of the Author, to be disposed of at the Primitive Library in Crosstreet, Hatton Garden, and by Mr. Sprint, Bookseller in Little-Britain, (for the Advantage of the same Library,) at 12 s a piece in Sheets, with the Allowance of a Sixth Book. Note, That those who buy Six at the Library before the middle of this Month, pay but 2 l. 14 s. or only 9 s. a Book.

The Delightful Chymical Liquor, for the Breath, Teeth, and Gums. Which in a Moment makes the most Nauseous Breath Smell delicately Fine and Charming, and in very little time infallibly Cures, so that an offensive Breath will not return; It certainly makes the blackest and most foul Teeth perfectly White, Clean and Beautiful to a Miracle; Cures the Scurvy in the Gums, tho' never so inveterate, making the Flesh grow again when almost Eaten away, and infallibly, fastens loose Teeth to Admiration, even in Old People, who too often falsly think their Age to be the Occasion: In short, for delightfully Perfuming, and quickly Curing an ill-scented Breath, for presently making the blackest Teeth most excellently White, certainly fastening them when Loose, effectually preserving them from Rotting or Decaying, and assuredly Curing the Scurvy in the Gums, it has not its Equal in the Universe, as Abundance of the Nobility and Gentry throughout the Kingdom have Experienced. Is Sold at Mr. Payn's a Toy-Shop at the Angel and Crown in St. Paul's Church-Yard, near Cheap-side at 2 s. 6 d. a Bottle with Directions.

The Vapours in Women infallibly Cured in an Instant, so as never to return again, by an admirable Chymical Secret, a few drops of which takes off a Fit in a Moment, dispels Sadness, clears the Head, takes away all Swimming, Giddiness, Dimness of Sight, Flushings in the Face, &c. to a Miracle, and most certainly prevents the Vapours returning again, for by Rooting out the very Cause, it perfectly cures, as Hundreds have experienc'd: It also strengthens the Stomach and Bowels, and causes Liveliness and settled Health. Is Sold only at Mrs. Osborn's, Toy-shop, at the Rose and Crown under St. Dunstan's Church in Fleet-street, at 2 s. 6 d. a Bottle with Directions. Beware of Counterfeits at other Places.

An Infallible Cure for the Stone and Gravel, whether in the Reins or Bladder, by an incomparable Chymical Liquor, which in the most Racking Fits, gives instant ease, and Perfectly frees the Patient from all Pains in the Back, and those Pains so much like the Cholick; dilates the Ureters, makes them slippery that small Stones and Gravel may pass from the Reins to be voided visibly with Urine, without pain; cleanses the Kidneys, Bladder, and all the Urinary Passages from slimy calculous Matter, certainly takes off all Heat, Pain, and Stoppage of Urine, and absolutely breaks and dissolves all large Stones (possible to be dissolv'd) whether in Kidneys or Bladder, so as entirely to Cure the Distemper; assuredly prevents the Stone in those that are troubled only with Gravel, and for all Disorders of the Reins and Bladder, is a stupendious Remedy, causing delightful Ease, pleasant Rest and perfect Health. Is Sold only at Jacob's Coffee-house against the Angel and Crown Tavern in Threadneedle-street behind the Royal Exchange, at 3 s. 6 d. a Bottle with Directions.

LONDON: Printed for *S. Buckley* and *J. Tonson*, and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*.

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